

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

25X1

SUBJECT Military Units, Fortifications, and Miscellaneous Military Information from the Vidin Area

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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The 3 Infantry Regiment

1. The 3 Infantry Regiment is quartered in barracks located in the "Baba Vidina" area, northeast of Vidin, in the plain between Vidin and Tsar Borisovo (N 44-03 E 22-52). The barracks are situated immediately north of "Baba Vidina", near a small fort constructed on the ruins of the walls of an ancient fortress located in the eastern outskirts of Vidin<sup>1</sup>.
2. These barracks are occupied by two companies and include six 1-story brick buildings, 12 x 6 meters in size. The other companies subordinate to 3 Infantry Regiment are stationed along the Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier. 25X1
3. Construction work of an undetermined nature is being carried out in the frontier area occupied by units of 3 Infantry Regiment. every day a large number of trucks travelling between the barracks and the units stationed at the frontier, carrying construction materials and food supplies. 25X1

The 2 Field Artillery Battalion

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4. The 2 Field Artillery Battalion is located in a group of buildings situated immediately north of the Civic Hospital, in the northern outskirts of Vidin. These buildings are described as follows:
  - a. A 1-story building, approximately 20 x 5 meters in size, with a tile roof; building includes a dormitory, mess hall, and kitchen;
  - b. Two brick 1-story buildings, 12 x 16 meters in size, with tile roofs; buildings are used to store artillery pieces; and
  - c. Two 1-story buildings, 12 x 16 meters in size, with tile roofs; buildings are used as garages.

25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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[REDACTED] 25X1

5. The 2 Field Artillery Battalion is equipped with field artillery pieces drawn by vehicles. [REDACTED] the caliber of these guns [REDACTED] estimated [REDACTED] between 60 and 70 mm. Only a few men and artillery pieces were in the barracks area, the majority being located along the Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier. (For a sketch showing the location of barracks of 3 Infantry Regiment and 2 Field Artillery Battalion see page 3). 25X1

The Baba Vidina Fortress

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6. The Baba Vidina Fortress, occupied by an unidentified military unit, is located in the northeastern outskirts of Vidin, on a small elevation. The fortress rises two meters above the wall of an old fortress and is 12 x 12 meters in size, with towers on the four corners of the old wall. At the base of the elevation, the fortress is surrounded entirely by a canal which is connected with the Danube. This canal is generally dry, but, in case of necessity, it can be filled by opening metal gates at the river. The canal has the following characteristics:

- a. Width: approximately three meters;
- b. Depth: approximately three meters; and
- c. Length: not known.

Miscellaneous Information

7. The countryside to the west of Vidin may be flooded entirely, up to the Yugoslav border, in order to defend the city and the Danube in case of a threat from the west. For this reason, prior to World War II, iron locks were built on a canal approximately 200 meters long, which, from a point southwest of Vidin, connects the countryside with the Danube, the waters of which river could be used to flood the plain. These locks were not opened during World War II.
8. Since November 1951, work of an unspecified nature has been going on in the Vidin sector, in the frontier area bordering Yugoslavia. The small farm houses located in the vineyards in this area were expropriated. They were owned by farmers who live in neighboring villages but occupied these farm houses when doing seasonal work. These expropriations were carried out for a depth of approximately 20 kilometers from the border. In this same area there is a curfew which starts at twilight.
- [REDACTED]
10. Frontier incidents often take place on the Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier. The Bulgarians provoke such incidents because many of them, no longer able to tolerate the privations they must suffer, escape to Yugoslavia. The Bulgarian Border Guards follow them into Yugoslav territory and incidents with the Yugoslav Border Guards, as well as shooting ensue, with frequent dead and wounded on both sides. 25X1
11. At the present time all Bulgarian soldiers who are natives of the frontier zone have been sent elsewhere in Bulgaria because they were suspected of having allowed Bulgarians to pass clandestinely into Yugoslavia. In January 1952, in one of the many skirmishes, a captain who was a native of Kyustendil was killed. [REDACTED]

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12. Since January 1952, entire railway convoys have been arriving in Vidin with Soviet troops. These men are sent in trucks from Vidin toward the Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier.

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13. [redacted] Soviet units are stationed at the border. [redacted]

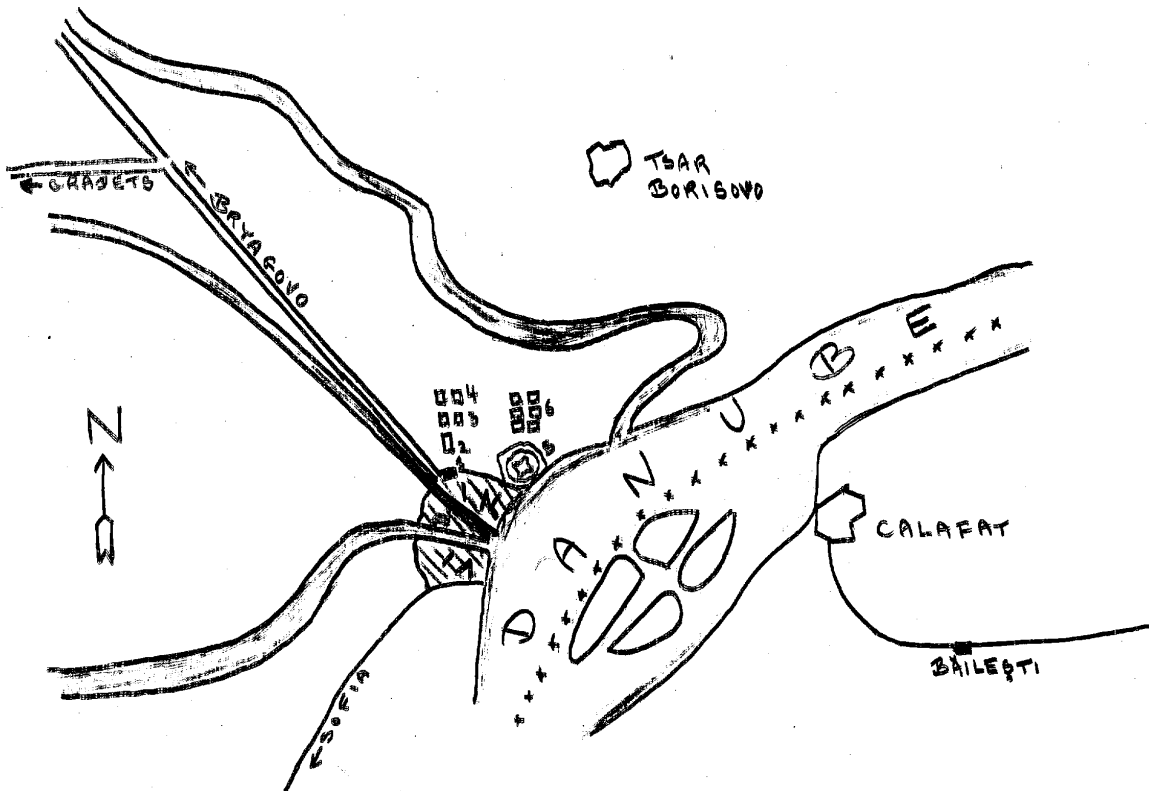
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LEGEND

1. State Civic Hospital
2. Dormitory of troops of 2 Field Artillery Battalion
3. Two buildings for storing artillery pieces
4. Two garages
5. "Baba Vidina" Fort
6. Barracks of 3 Infantry Regiment



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